



# SRMT Kawennì:ios

*Helping Build a Better Tomorrow*

Enniska / February 2009

## **In this Issue**

**Scholarship  
Winners**  
*Pages 2-3*

**Artist Spotlight -  
Charlotte King**  
*Pages 4-5*

**Business Feature -  
Paper Doll Portrait  
Studio**  
*Page 8*

**Tribal Meeting  
Follow-up and  
Action Items**  
*Page 11*

**Dental Clinic Wins  
Award**  
*Page 13*

## **Greetings to all Community Members of Akwesasne!**

With the spring thaw upon us, please be safe and stay off the ice, don't put yourself in danger, it is an unnecessary risk and your loved ones will thank you.

This month's newsletter is featuring a new look that started with last month's. I hope you enjoy the improvement. This month's issue contains a lot of good things that have been happening in our community including scholarship awards, a prize-winning artist, dental clinic award and a major grant awarded to the tribe. Other good news includes Rebecca White, who has recently come onboard as Deputy Clerk. She quickly adjusted to the fast paced and busy atmosphere of the Tribal Clerk's Office. Way to go Becky!

Not only do we have daily requests for certification letters, ID cards, bridge passes, land matters and applications for membership/research, we also accommodate Social Security representative Tammy Finnigan who visits our office every second Tuesday of each month from 1:30 pm – 3:30 pm to accept new applications, provide replacement cards and make name changes. (Please Note: for other business such as Social Security benefits, please phone 1-866-931-2569 or visit their office in either Ogdensburg or Plattsburgh)

As a friendly reminder to our enrolled members, if you have received a questionnaire to attend court as a potential juror, drop your letter off at the office, and we will take care of this for you.

For those who may have recently received a taxation notice from the NYS Department of Taxation and Finance, Form IT 2140-IND (NYS Certificate of Exemption from Withholding) is available in our office, should you be required to furnish it with your documents.

We are still in the early stages of developing the enhanced Tribal ID card and will keep you updated as we make progress.

If you require further assistance on any of the above mentioned, please feel free to contact the Office of the Tribal Clerk, and direct your questions to Paul Doxtator; GIS Tech, Terry Cree; Records Clerk, Rebecca White; Deputy Clerk, or myself.

Nia:wen,

Corleen Jacco, Tribal Clerk



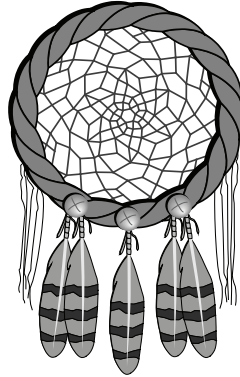
# Higher Education

By Rod Cook

## Students Receive Scholarships

In December 2008, an investment firm from the Rochester area contacted the Higher Education office regarding a client who wanted to donate money for scholarships supporting Native American students in college.

The anonymous donor made \$18,000 available for the scholarships. After much discussion, it was decided to make those awards substantial. Six students would get \$3,000 EACH for essays describing their plans and goals. Since the donor had requested that the money be used primarily for undergraduate studies, five of the awards went to undergraduates and one to a graduate student.



Over 60 Mohawk students applied. Every one of the 60+ essays had to be read and evaluated. Those essays were winnowed down to 20 and then the final six.

The Public Information Office will prepare a formal report containing the winning essays, the students' biographies and a huge thank you on behalf of the students to be sent to the investment firm and donor.

The Higher Education Program thanks all the students who applied. Based on the goals and plans that were presented in the essays, the future of Akwesasne looks very bright.

## Scholarship Recipients

**Sabrina LeeAnn Adams** received a BS in Elementary Education from Plattsburgh State in 2001. She is currently enrolled in their special education graduate program with the intent to graduate August 2009.

She has been employed at Salmon River for the last 4 and 1/2 years and has worked with some of the best teachers in the area. The most influential person she has worked with would be Ms. Tracie Fuller. She has so many great qualities, Sabrina felt honored working with her. Her positive approach always made her feel important in what she did. As she continues her education, Sabrina hopes someday to direct an advocacy center for autistic children.



**Samantha Phillips** is a sophomore attending the State University of New York at Potsdam. She is majoring in Secondary Education with a concentration in English. She is also working on her coaching certification for ice hockey. Samantha grew up in Akwesasne and was always actively involved in sports. She played ice hockey with local teams and later participated in the National Aboriginal Hockey Championships in Canada and the New York State Empire Games. Samantha played varsity hockey, soccer and softball throughout high school at Salmon River Central. Samantha was the organizer of the Salmon River's Grim Reaper Day, a day that the Health Club sponsored to promote anti-drinking and driving. Samantha is the daughter of Carol Phillips and Patrick Phillips and has younger brother Travis. Her Mohawk name is Kaniharos and is of the Turtle Clan.



**Mary Lafrance** is a Senior at Cornell University in the College of Agriculture and Life Sciences majoring in Natural Resources with a minor in American Indian Studies. She is interested in Tribal environmental issues, and plans on returning to the Akwesasne Mohawk Reservation after school to work on environmental protection.



**Wanda Johnson** is inspired by her six children whose ages range from ten to twenty eight. She received an Associates in Applied Science Degree in Environmental Science from Southwestern Indian Polytechnic Institute in the summer of 2004. She graduated Phi Theta Kappa and enjoyed belonging to other organizations such as the American Indian Science and Engineering Society and Leeuwenhoek Society. She was involved with the National Science Foundation, the United States Department of Agriculture and received recognition from the American Indian College Fund. She is pursuing a Nursing degree at SUNY Canton. With an education in the health field, she's hoping to be more active in filling a need for a practitioner that is culturally sensitive and both scientifically and environmentally aware.



**Nathan J. Seymour** is a freshman at Clarkson University in Potsdam, NY. He is in the Computer Engineering Program. Prior to attending Clarkson; he graduated with honors from Massena Central School. He also attended J.W Leary and the Akwesasne Mohawk School. When he was younger, he played lacrosse and hockey with Akwesasne minor sports. His interests include playing video games, computers, spending time with friends, learning how to play the guitar and traveling with his family. His mother instilled in him the importance of a good education. She graduated from Clarkson University is why he chose Clarkson. He hopes to complete his education at Clarkson and work in Akwesasne.



**Keenia-Marie Herne** graduated from Salmon River Central School in May 2006 with an advanced Regent's diploma. During high school, she was in the National Honors Society, the Spanish Club, and the Health Club. She was also part of the Track and Field team for three seasons.



She is currently a junior at the State University of New York at Potsdam majoring in psychology and minoring in sociology. Throughout her years in Potsdam, she has made the Presidents List every semester, been the recipient of the 2007-2008 Walter L. Wakefield Award, and has also been honored by the Lambda Alpha Honor Society in Anthropology. This semester she has become a part of the Honor Program in Psychology. After graduating from SUNY Potsdam, she looks forward to enrolling in a graduate program to pursue a career School Psychology.



# LOCAL MOHAWK ARTIST WINS TOP HONORS

## Massena Artists Association Holds Annual Art Exhibition

By David Staddon

Mohawk artist Charlotte King took a first place prize in the Massena Artist Association's 2009 annual juried art exhibition. King won in the category of oil painting for her painting, *Waiting for the Prize*, after submitting two pieces for the show. Her winning image was a large-format canvas of male traditional pow-wow dancers standing in a semi-circle. "I was thrilled to receive this first place prize," said King. "I've embraced the idea that artists need to promote themselves, so I've been entering as many shows as possible to get a higher level of name recognition and sell more of my work."

King has been involved with art since the 1980s when she attended St. Lawrence College and got a two-year diploma in art. Her next years were spent raising a family of five children, but in 1990 she started painting again. In 1992 she put work in the *Mohawk '92* show in Montreal and was later invited to submit work in shows in Pointe Claire and Ottawa. King decided to go back to school in 2005, after attending a workshop in Brockville, Ontario that kick-started her desire for art education. She began attending SUNY Potsdam in 2005 – and graduated with her bachelor's degree in December, 2008. While at Potsdam, she studied for a semester at the renowned Indian Art School in Santa Fe, New Mexico.

*"My primary inspiration has been Native women and Mohawk culture."* Charlotte King



“My primary inspiration has been Native women and Mohawk culture. Mostly I work in oil and I do some lithography and intaglio prints, too, but didn’t put any prints in this show,” King remarked. “My work is generally native-themed with some landscapes and is still in the developing stages. Right now I’m migrating more towards native women as subjects.”

.....



.....

“On behalf of the St. Regis Mohawk Tribal Council, we are pleased that one of our community members received this honor and we offer our congratulations to Charlotte. We encourage her to continue her work and enter it in art shows,” said Tribal Chief Barbara Lazore.

Over 100 interested people turned out for the exhibit and awards ceremony on Tuesday, February

10th, at the Massena Public Library. Awards were given in several categories including oil painting, acrylic paintings, pastel drawings, photography and mixed media. “We were happy with both the quality of the art work submitted and the turnout for the reception. This is the 24th annual show hosted by the Massena Artist’s Association and will run through February 27th,” said association president, Dorothy Badger.

# NEW FACES

Douglas E. Hamilton

Leo Fox

Lorraine C. Bero

Family Support

Environment

Office of the Aging

Youth Recreation Supervisor

Forestry Laborer

Case Manager



# ON THE ROAD

Chief James Ransom travelled to Albany, NY on January 6, 2009 to attend the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation Board meeting. Meetings are held when state environmental legislation is presented and requires action.

Chief Monica Jacobs and Sub-Chief Pam Brown were in Washington, DC from January 7-9, 2009 for a United Southern and Eastern Tribes (USET) meeting.

Chief Barbara Lazore, Chief Monica Jacobs and Sub-Chief Pam Brown travelled to Washington, DC from January 18-21, 2009 to attend the tribal events held during Presidential Inauguration Week.



# SRMT KAWENNÌ:IOS

David Trout Staddon  
Editor

Aimée Benedict-Debo  
Publications Manager

Adrianne Jacobs  
Photographer

*“Good Words”*  
is published monthly by the  
St. Regis Mohawk Tribe,  
Public Information Office  
412 State Route 37  
Akwesasne, NY 13655  
(518) 358-2272  
[public.information@srmt-nsn.gov](mailto:public.information@srmt-nsn.gov)  
[www.srmt-nsn.gov](http://www.srmt-nsn.gov)



# **JOBS**



Forestry Laborer - Environment  
Youth Worker - Akwesasne Group Home  
Caseworker - Preventive/Foster Care/Adoption  
Program Manager - Early Childhood Development  
Health Safety Disabilities Coordinator - Early Childhood Development  
Preschool Education Coordinator - Early Childhood Development  
Solid Waste Laborer(s) - Environment  
Internal Auditor - Tribal Gaming Commission

Current postings and complete job descriptions are  
available online at: [www.srmt-nsn.gov](http://www.srmt-nsn.gov)



# **CALENDAR**

## **Ennisko:wa/March**

7th - Monthly Tribal Meeting - 10 am - Community Building  
10th - Social Security Administration - 1:30 to 3:30 pm - Tribal Clerks Office  
17th - Trivia at St. Regis Mohawk Senior Center - 1 to 4 pm



# **GIVING BACK**

Funeral Donations - 2 recipients	\$ 1,000
Medical Assistance - 2 recipients	1,000
Sports Teams - 5 recipients	2,500





# Paper Doll Portrait Studio

By Steven B. Cook, Director of Economic Development

If you're looking for a special photo keepsake, visit Paper Doll Portrait Studio, in Akwesasne. Rebecca Thompson enjoyed a 24 year career in photography. She is the owner/operator of Paper Doll Portrait Studio and returned to Akwesasne 20 years ago from Albany NY where she acquired many invaluable skills and knowledge regarding various photography techniques.

Some of her professional highlights include: two music album covers sold internationally, glamour shots at Iakhihsohtha Home for the Elderly and Tsiionkwanon so:te Adult Care, and a multitude of individual, family, wedding and modeling portfolios.

*Mohawk owned and operated businesses interested in being featured are encouraged contact the Office Of Economic Development at 518-358-2272*

"It was always my desire to return to Akwesasne and open a studio which provides Akwesasronon and its surrounding area with professional keepsake memories for all ages from pre-birth, school, marriage and elders." says Rebecca.

Paper Dolls Studio opened its doors on in March 2008 at the Kanienkehaka Plaza on Route 37 in Akwesasne. Rebecca welcomes everyone to stop in and see her many photo portfolios. Paper Dolls provides high quality, affordable portraiture to local and surrounding families and businesses.

For more information, call Rebecca at (518) 358-4109 or visit her on the world wide web at [www.myspace.com/paperdollportraits](http://www.myspace.com/paperdollportraits).





# WHASSUP LATELY



**Governor Paterson greets tribal officials during his Tsiothorko:wa/January 12th visit to Massena**

**Health Services staff show their support for women's heart disease awareness on National Wear Red Day on Enniska/February 6th.**



**Tribal Chiefs at ceremony for signing of National Grid Agreements**

**Sub-Chief Stacy Adams carries the 2008 18th Annual Akwesasne Winter Carnival torch**



**Tribal Court Judge PJ Herne swears in six new Tribal Police Officers**



# T

# ribe Receives \$96,000 Grant

## *Environmental Assessment to Take Place*

The St. Regis Mohawk Tribe's Environment Division received a grant from the Fisheries Enhancement Mitigation Research Fund (FEMRF) to study the presence and distribution of fish that are threatened and endangered. The study includes fish species of greatest conservation need and other species that are declining or of commercial or ecological importance. The study will also support the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation's State Wildlife Action Plan and increase understanding of the condition of the St. Lawrence River from Ogdensburg to Akwesasne. Water Quality Program Manager Tony David was primarily responsible for writing the grant proposal.

The research has three goals:

- 1) locate populations of rare, threatened and endangered species within the U.S. St. Lawrence basin and Akwesasne territory,
- 2) estimate their relative abundances and identify the best habitat conditions and,
- 3) use the findings to identify threats, population status and to prioritize areas for protection and possible restoration.

"The Tribe has a vested interest in understanding the current state of threatened and endangered species for the St. Lawrence River and its tributaries to the downstream portion of Akwesasne," said Ken Jock, Director of the Tribe's Environment Division.



The work is expected to run for three years, starting in 2009. The first phase will involve developing the initial sampling model and technician training, followed by field collections and data processing. The second year will see continued field collections, data processing and summary report development and the third year, final reporting and data entry.

**"The Mohawks of Akwesasne have sustained a traditional lifestyle from the harvest of fish from the St. Lawrence and its tributaries."**

"Activities like this show that we take our responsibility to protect the environment seriously. Everybody benefits from a clean and healthy river," said Tribal Chief James Ransom. "The health of the fishery of the St. Lawrence River is important to many groups and to local economies."

"The tribal council congratulates the Environment Division on this achievement, especially Ken Jock and Tony David, for their talent and vision in securing this important grant," noted Tribal Chief Barbara Lazore.

"We certainly have a hard-working and dedicated work force."

The grant, totaling \$96,200 will contribute to the cost of salaries and benefits for four part-time staff, training, supplies, travel and administrative overhead. The Tribe will provide \$11,000 in matching funds for a total of \$107,200 to complete the three-year project.



## Official Tribal Monthly Meeting

February 7, 2009

Chaired by  
Chief James W. Ransom

1. Opening Greetings & Welcome
2. Reading of Action item(s) from last meeting  
Financial Handouts:
  - Akwesasne Mohawk Casino
  - Mohawk Bingo Palace
  - First Americans IGA
3. Policing - Police Chief Andy Thomas
4. Mohawk School Update - Sub-Chief Stacy Adams
5. Discussion of land purchase on Route 37
  - Tribe offered 240 acre property by owner
6. New Business
7. Review of Action Items - Tribal Clerk
8. Closing Adjournment

### Action items:

1. Set up a meeting with manager of IGA to discuss a plan of action to reduce losses.
2. Do an investigation on the land owner of the Route 37 reclamation site parcel including a title search.
3. Provide information on how the international border was established.
4. Provide amount of money spent on travel by Tribal Council.

## Action Item Follow-Up from January Tribal Meeting

1. To have the monthly meeting minutes available for community members 10 days prior to the next monthly meeting upon request.  
*The TCR regarding meeting minutes is available as a handout at the February 2009 meeting.*
2. Look into Andre's concerns regarding the bidding process at the casino expansion.  
*A meeting was held with the individuals concerned about the bidding process for the Casino expansion on Wednesday, February 4, 2009.*
3. Can we set up a meeting to look into the convenience stores buying from IGA.  
*A community members was to coordinate the efforts to establish this committee.*
4. To look into better facilities for the Bingo Palace to better accommodate non-smokers, diabetics and elders.  
*Bingo Palace General Manager Lenny Oakes reports Tribal Council informed him in 2008 that the Bingo Palace would remain at the existing site. The Casino expansion will not accommodate the Bingo Palace because the move would be too costly and the return on investment would not be immediate. On the smoking issue he says there is currently a non-smoking room with approximately 190 seats available at the Palace. Mr. Oakes has been forwarded the request for sugar-free food items.*
5. Issue a press release re: the comprehensive survey done back in August for next month's meeting.  
*The final report has not been issued yet. A draft has been submitted to the Tribe's Office of Economic Development for comment prior to submission to Council. It is anticipated that the report will be available to the public in March.*
6. To find out why border patrol has attended calls with tribal police.  
*Council met with the Tribal Police and Border Patrol on Tuesday, February 3, 2009.*
7. Invite Andy Thomas to attend February 2009 monthly meeting to answer questions and concerns from community members.  
*Andy Thomas will be available to answer questions at the February 2009 Tribal meeting.*





## Owera' shon: a (The Winds)

By Angela Benedict-Dunn

This month I am featuring the Environment Division's (ED) air program. The air program was initially formed because of the two industries right next to Akwesasne. The environment division started with only a couple of individuals and has now grown to a staff of over 25 in 10 different programs.

The air program staff is managed by me with two dedicated staff: Marlene Thompson and Jeri Jacobs.

Marlene is in charge of sampling for polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons (PAH). PAH's are associated with the production at one of the industries and has been monitored by the ED for over the past 10 years. Marlene is also in charge of a site created to monitor the amount of acid rain in this area called the National Atmospheric Deposition Program. This is a national organization with set protocols so that everyone samples in the same exact way with the same exact equipment. This site (NY22) located in Fort Covington has been operating since August 1999. The issuing of burn permits is also a task of Marlene's. For this task Marlene uses a burn regulation guideline brochure as well as a video to help community members understand the dos and don'ts of good burning. As a service to the community, Marlene does indoor air quality (IAQ) inspections for individuals who feel their IAQ is not good. Although the program doesn't provide remediation, Marlene offers recommendations for fixes for any problems that

may be found. Marlene can be reached at 358-5937 extension 128.

The air program is involved in sampling grasses for fluoride content. This is joint project with Alcoa. Grasses in select locations are sampled to see what the fluoride exposure is to our community.

Jeri is in charge of our air shed. Located in this shed are several instruments that monitor the outside air for such things as metals, particulate matter, ozone, sulfur dioxide and nitrogen oxides. The site also has a 10 meter meteorological station that has probes for temperature, relative humidity, wind speed, wind direction, barometric pressure and precipitation.

In September 2008, the air program went online. The program is called the Tribal Environmental Exchange Network or TREX. Right now the data that is being collected is temperature, wind speed/direction, precipitation, barometric pressure and particulate matter. The whole network includes 12 other tribal air programs mostly from tribes in the west. The link to the site is: <http://wxweb.meteostar.com/tribal/>. Check it out. It also gives information on air quality conditions following the EPA's Air Quality Index (AQI) for people with asthma and/or respiratory disorders. The AQI is a color coded system to warn individuals when the air quality outside may affect their health. For more information on the AQI you can go to the EPA's website <http://airnow.gov/> or visit the air quality program at our environment division. For any questions about our air shed and the monitoring that is done there you can contact Jeri at extension 111.

The air program is continually looking for more opportunities to help the community strive for clean air. For any general air quality questions indoor or outdoor my extension is 129.

*The idea of this column is to promote clean air practices in each of our homes, in our personal behaviors throughout each day, in line with our Mohawk cultural value system. In no way is this column meant to be an indictment of anything that you choose to do. Instead, this is in place as a simple thought-provoking tool, to reveal some good ideas and some interesting notions.*

*Please present any comments, complaints, or questions to Angela Benedict-Dunn, Air Quality Manager or Ken Jock, Environment Division Director. We welcome your thoughts and opinions.*



# TRIBAL DENTAL CLINIC WINS AWARD .....

Dr. Serabian Credits Dental Team  
for Recognition

By David Staddon



The St. Regis Mohawk Dental Program received the 2008 Area Honor Award from the Nashville Area Office of the Indian Health Service. The award was presented to Dr. Excelsa Serabian for the Oral Health Initiative. She has been working as a dentist at the tribe's clinic off and on since 1995.

"This award is about pure teamwork. It's not just about me, but it's for the whole dental team," remarked Dr. Serabian. "People generally don't like to go to the dentist, so we try and do more procedures during each appointment. As a result, finding ways to work more efficiently has increased access to care." A medal, a certificate and a hand-made Indian basket were awarded to the clinic for the achievement.

The Nashville Area Dental Program has had unprecedented success in meeting the three

national Government Performance Results Act (GPRA) measures of: access to dental care, dental sealants and fluoride applications. The Mohawk Dental Program shares these program honors with the Choctaw, Chitimacha, Oneida, Passamaquoddy and Seminole Dental Programs. All of these tribes are located in the Nashville Dental Program's area.

"This is another example of how the Tribe promotes the health and well-being of its members," said Tribal Chief Barbara Lazore. "We are proud of this achievement and appreciate the Indian Health Service for the recognition. We also value and appreciate the hard work of our employees."

The St. Regis Mohawk Dental Clinic has been in existence since 1978 and serves over 1,300 patients a year.

## NIA:WEN!

As you know, we have rented a three bedroom unit to house women and children who seek shelter from domestic violence situations. For many years, we have been attempting to offer these services within the Akwesasne Territory. We have provided safe and secure housing to over 130 women from the Akwesasne Mohawk Nation in the year 2007 and the number of children is much higher. The statistics for domestic violence are alarmingly high and seem to increase every year. Our Safe House offers a safe and secure place for women and their children to stay while healing from the affects of domestic violence on herself but most importantly to her children.

We would like to thank the following people for their generous support:

Dawn David ~ Elaine Scott ~ Jamie Rice  
Summer Bero ~ Annette Armstrong  
Dick Peters ~ Paulette White ~ Clopmans  
Yvette Cook ~ Summer Bero ~ Partridge House  
Dawn Cree ~ Beverly Papineau ~ Peter Terrance  
Bear's Den ~ Lawrence Martin ~ Ruth Peters  
Dawn David ~ Mary Arquette ~ Juanita Arquette  
Millie Cook ~ Jacobs Tobacco ~ Brenda Francis  
Jessica Jock ~ Elizabeth Edwards ~ Kelly Laffin  
Sheila King ~ Jennifer & Yvonne Smoke  
Bali & Gina Davis ~ Mother Goose Daycare  
Lazore's Construction ~ Akwesasne Women  
Singers ~ Log Cabin Restaurant

We apologize if we left anyone out. With the generous support of our Community, we will be able to help many families and individuals not only to meet essential daily needs, but also to work toward a brighter future. Sken:nen kenhak - (St. Regis Mohawk Tribe STOP Domestic Violence/ Safe Haven Program)

## TRIVIA NIGHT

A St. Patrick's Day Trivia game will be held at the St. Regis Mohawk Senior Center on Tuesday, March 17, 2009 from 1 to 4 pm. Teams will consist of 4 persons and at least one team member must

be a senior 60 yrs & older. The Registration Fee is \$5.00 per person and Seniors are FREE. Prizes will be given for 1st-2nd-3rd and Best Dressed. Call the Senior Center at 518-358-2963 to register. Snacks and dessert table will be provided. For more information call the Center and ask for Amanda or Lorraine

## MOHAWK ARTISTS

### Mohawk Artist Opportunity

Artists are invited to participate in the Remington Museum's 2009 Members' Juried Art Exhibit, by submitting up to three digital photos of their art. For the first time, one work from each artist is guaranteed acceptance. This exhibit is open to member artists everywhere.

An artist who is not yet a museum member may join with their entry into the exhibit. Cash prizes will be awarded. The deadline for submission of digital images on CD, entry form and payment is March 23rd. The exhibit opens with a reception on April 11th, and will remain on view until June 13, 2009. Works in the exhibit may be offered for sale, with one third of the price benefiting the museum.

For more information and a prospectus, contact [lafo@fredericremington.org](mailto:lafo@fredericremington.org), or download the prospectus at [www.fredericremington.org](http://www.fredericremington.org), or call 315-393-2425.



# PLEASE RESPECT THE COMMUNITY & RECYCLING DEPOT

By Laura Weber



Have you ever wondered what those blue bins are located across from Wild Bill's on Route 37? They are the Tribe's recycling depot.

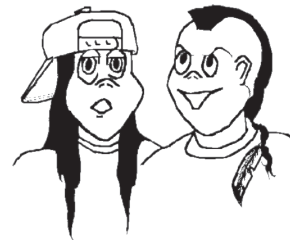
The blue bins have been there since 2002 and serve as a free drop off area for recyclables. The bins were originally placed for the Tribe's blue bag customers, but more and more people are using them and in some cases abusing them. "We have a constant problem of people using the area for a garbage dumping place," says Laura Weber, SRMT Solid Waste Manager.

The Tribe's Solid Waste Department checks the area daily and routinely finds garbage that has been left outside the containers, or people have placed garbage inside the containers, which contaminates the recyclables and then they have to be disposed as garbage. Weber is not sure why people abuse the use of the depot. "It may be a cost issue, but the root issue is that people lack respect for themselves and community when they do this. If people respected themselves and the community, they wouldn't use the depot as dumping ground and find an alternate means of proper disposal for their garbage," says Weber.

Bags of garbage found left at the depot are inspected and personal information found on mailing labels are pulled out. An incident report is completed and submitted to the Tribe's Environmental Compliance Officer. The Officer contacts the people to discuss the issue with them. This approach has not deterred people from abusing the depot since many of these same people are repeat offenders. The Solid Waste Department has considered removing the containers since there doesn't seem to be a real solution to the problem other than having a staff member there 24/7, which is not feasible. "I hope it doesn't come to this

because we know that only a few people are abusing the depot and we don't want these few people to ruin it for the rest of the community," says Weber.

For people not abusing the recycling depot, we give a big thanks to you. For people abusing the depot, we ask you to stop the abuse and properly dispose of your garbage by either using the transfer station or contracting with a hauler to collect your materials.



## FOLLOW THESE STEPS TO PROPERLY USE THE DEPOT

1. Combine glass, plastics, tin, and aluminum.  
Keep these materials separate from mixed paper.
2. Combine mixed paper and keep separate from glass, plastic, tin, and aluminum.
3. Follow instructions located on the containers at the recycling depot and place your materials in the designated containers.

***DEPOT IS NOT FOR DISPOSAL OF  
GARBAGE***

# TALKIN' TRASH

# New Look for the Newsletter

You may have noticed that January's newsletter was printed on higher quality paper, giving the newsletter a new look and feel. Color saturation is much better and photos are much more crisp and sharp. We're happy to be able to publish a better-looking newsletter.

We lost our original printer in November and switched for two months to another printer who created some problems for us. You may have noticed that our December newsletter came out a little late, which was unfortunate for all the Christmas and holiday greetings since it was sent out after Christmas, due to issues with our new print shop.

Fortunately, we were able to turn a problem into an advantage since we have been able to identify a printer that provides upgraded quality and a lower price. Although our cost savings will only be about \$300 per year, we're able to get a higher quality and easier to read publication. This helps the newsletter

be a more positive reflection on the St. Regis Mohawk Tribe.

The new newsletter has gone even more **GREEN**. It is Forest Stewardship Council (FSC) certified which produces mixed source paper from well-managed, controlled sources and recycled wood or fiber. The printing facility uses 100% windpower and soy based inks which are made from natural products and processes, and decompose without harm to the environment.

The Public Information Office has a mailing list for Tribal members living out of the mailing areas of Akwesasne: 13655 and Rooseveltown: 13683. If you know of anyone interested in receiving the newsletter, please contact our office.

We hope you enjoy this month's and subsequent issues. We're always looking for input from our readers and look forward to hearing from you.

St. Regis Mohawk Tribe  
412 State Route 37  
Akwesasne, NY 13655

U.S. POSTAGE  
PAID  
MAILED FROM  
ZIP CODE 13655  
PERMIT NO. 26

POSTAL PATRON